

**RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS QUARTLERY MEETING
January 16, 2024, at 10:00 A.M.
Rio Grande Water Conservation District Conference Room
And By Zoom Teleconference**

Present: Greg Higel, President; Armando Valdez, Vice-President; Zeke Ward, Secretary/ Treasurer; Cory Off, Director; Peggy Godfrey, Director; Mark Deacon, Director; Mike Kruse, Director; and, Doug Gunnels, Director.

Absent: Elliott Salazar, Director.

Staff and Consultants: Pete Ampe, Hill & Robbins, P.C.; Amber Pacheco, Deputy General Manager; Chris Ivers, Program Manager; Taylor Chick, Program Manager; Angelo Bellah, Program Manager; Wylie Keller, Water Resource Specialist; Clinton Phillips, Davis Engineering; Rose Vanderpool, Program Assistant; Linda Ramirez, Program Assistant; Kylie Gregg, Office Manager; Crystal Benavidez, HCP Coordinator/Program Assistant; April Mondragon, Administrative Assistant; and, Michael Carson, Database Administrator.

Guests: William Myers, Jay Sanders, Christine Arbogast, Rio de la Vista, Chris Shaffer, Ryan Unterreiner, Heather Dutton, Nate Reynolds, Max Gibson, Erin Minks, Emma Reesor, Connor Born, Cassandra McCuen, Susan Pierce-Platais, Morgan Dingfelder, Taylor Applewhite, George Whitten, Daniel Boyes, Steven Lauer, Chris Lopez, Sally Wier, Craig Cotten, Willie Hoffner, Vern Heersink, Amber Lidell, Garin Vorthmann, Azarel Madrigal.

CALL TO ORDER

President Greg Higel called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. There was a quorum present for the meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

INTRODUCTION OF STAFF AND GUESTS

President Higel welcomed all those present and asked for introductions.

APPROVE AGENDA

President Higel announced Christine Arbogast would report before lunch. He asked for any other changes or a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made by Cory Off to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mark Deacon and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

President Higel asked for approval of the consent agenda items:

- October 17, 2023-Quarterly Meeting Minutes
- November 2, 2023-Special Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Cory Off to approve the consent agenda items as presented. The motion was seconded by Peggy Godfrey and was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Higel asked for public comment. Cory Off recognized staff and Amber Pacheco for their hard work.

FINANCIAL REPORT

President Higel asked for the financial report. Amber Pacheco presented the Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual. She went over the changes in the financials through the end of December 2023. Ms. Pacheco reported on reimbursements from the Subdistricts and revenue from the BOR to pay bonus payments to long term employees. She highlighted Senate Bill revenues, expenses and purchases made by the Subdistricts throughout the year. Ms. Pacheco presented the Balance Sheet for the District and each Subdistrict. She updated the Board on bank balances and on the CD balances.

A motion was made by Peggy Godfrey to approve the financial report as presented. The motion was seconded by Mark Deacon and unanimously approved

MANAGER'S REPORT

President Higel asked for the Manager's report. Amber Pacheco provided an update on the audit, Water Congress and RWR activities. She reported hosting Master Irrigators 2.0, urban legislatures last year and beginning to organize the Water Leaders class. Ms. Pacheco highlighted the upcoming Ag Conference and reported completing the Water Leaders course. She stated anyone interested in taking the Water Leaders Course could reach out to the District for sponsorship. Ms. Pacheco updated the Board on the Senate Bill fund program and the possibility of extending the program if funds are available. She highlighted the measure taken by Subdistrict No. 1 and No. 3 by offering additional incentives to encourage participation. She also provided an update on the Trinchera applications.

- Announcement of expiring terms for the Board of Directors

Amber Pacheco announced Greg Higel, Peggy Godfrey and Armando Valdez's terms on the Board were expiring. She stated letters had been sent out to the Counties for reappointment or elections.

- Resolution to allow a signer for RGWCD Farm Plan with the FSA

Amber Pacheco explained the purpose and reason for a resolution to allow a signer for the District's Farm Plans.

A motion was made by Peggy Godfrey to approve the Resolution to allow Amber Pacheco to be a signer for Rio Grande Water Conservation District Farm Plan with the FSA. The motion was seconded by Mike Kruse.

Armando Valdez asked to amend the motion to add Cleave Simpson as an additional signer. The motion was seconded by Mike Kruse and unanimously approved.

- Action on request for funding of a portion of the local match for Conejos Basin Airborne Snow Observatory flights in 2024

Amber Pacheco reported receiving a one-time \$40,000 funding request for the Conejos Basin Airborne Snow Observatory flights in 2024. She provided the names of the partners and reported on the time sensitive factor.

A motion was made by Cory Off to approve the funding request for a one-time \$40,000 match for Conejos Basin Airborne Snow Observatory flights in 2024. The motion was seconded by Mark Deacon and unanimously approved.

- Action on Condemnation of North Star quarters

Amber Pacheco reported on the continued conversations regarding friendly condemnation of North Star Farms quarters. She reminded the Board of the lease of circles between Subdistrict No. 5 and North Star Farms.

A motion was made by Peggy Godfrey to table the action for further discussions.

Ms. Pacheco expressed the importance of the Board taking action on the matter. She provided the amount Subdistrict No. 5 pays each year for the lease of the quarters and the hardship to the Subdistrict. Pete Ampe explained the commonality of the 1033 process and a 1031 exchange. He highlighted the length of the process, the need for public purpose/benefit and reported a lawsuit would not be required. Peggy Godfrey asked for the matter to be tabled in order for her to receive comments back from the public. Chris Ivers explained how the purchase would benefit Subdistrict No. 5. He reminded the Board of their discussions since May 2023 and asked the Board not to table the matter.

The motion was seconded by Doug Gunnels. There were three (3) yes votes and four (4) no votes. The motion failed due to not having a majority vote.

The Board decided to continue the discussion later on in the meeting.

- Consideration and possible action on Town of Center-Urban Renewal Authority request to forego future tax revenues

Amber Pacheco described the packet received from the Town of Center. Pete Ampe explained the request from the Town to forego tax benefits for twenty-five (25) years. Ms. Pacheco highlighted the other Districts in the area also provided with the request and asked the Board for guidance regarding the proposal. Staff was directed to gather additional information and plan for another conversation in the near future.

KOGOVSEK & ASSOCIATES-CHRISTINE ARBOGAST

President Higel asked for the Kogovsek & Associates report. Christine Arbogast reported on upcoming bills and conservation programs. She highlighted a drought bill to be introduced to assist with an emergency watershed for forestry. Ms. Arbogast described a meeting she attended with the Congresswomen and Cleave Simpson regarding funding for the Rio Grande system.

PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORTS

President Higel asked for Program Manager's reports.

- *Subdistrict No. 1-Taylor Chick*

Taylor Chick provided an update on the Subdistrict programs offered in 2023. He reported on the number of wells permanently retired from pumping and the continued work being done with USDA on the CREP program. Mr. Chick reported working with Clinton Phillips on recharge facilities for Subdistrict properties and the bids they received for equipment. Discussion was held on how the price per unit is developed on grazing leases.

- *Approve Bids for the sale of equipment on Subdistrict No. 1 Lacy Property*

A motion was made by Mike Kruse to approve the bids for equipment on Subdistrict No. 1 Lacy property. The motion was seconded by Peggy Godfrey and unanimously approved.

- *Subdistrict No's 2, 3, and 6-Angelo Bellah*

Angelo Bellah updated the Board on the irrigation season based on 2023's Annual Replacement Plan (ARP) and projects within Subdistrict No. 2 and 3. He highlighted property maintenance and the installation of a VFD on the Alpha Hay Farms. Mr. Bellah reported Subdistrict No. 3 was currently accepting bids on seven (7) thirty-five (35) acre lots until the end of January. He provided an update on the land sale to Conejos Water Conservancy District; the sale of assets/equipment and measures being worked on by the Subdistrict No. 3 Board of Managers to meet aquifer sustainability. Mr. Bellah gave an overview of the Subdistrict No. 6 irrigation season based on 2023's Annual Replacement Plan, contracts being worked on and projects within the Subdistrict. He highlighted a potential incentive program being worked on by Subdistrict 6 in an attempt to achieve aquifer sustainability.

- *Subdistrict No.'s 4 and 5-Chris Ivers*

Chris Ivers reported Subdistrict No. 4 was in the process of leasing six (6) quarters and accepting proposals to manage irrigation and planting on some of the quarters. Discussion was held on the effects to senior water rights on Saguache Creek if the deal between Subdistrict No. 5 and North Star Farms goes through. Amber Pacheco explained the Board would have to approve moving forward with a purchase or condemnation. She also reported on the need to appoint Jennifer Rodriguez to Subdistrict No. 4 Board of Managers.

A motion was made by Mike Kruse to appoint Jennifer Rodriguez to the Subdistrict No. 4 Board of Managers vacant seat. The motion was seconded by Peggy Godfrey and unanimously approved.

SENATOR BENNET'S OFFICE-ERIN MINKS

President Higel asked for a report from Senator Bennet's office. Erin Minks updated the Board on bills being worked on and described a possible partial shutdown. She also reported on the continued discussions surrounding alfalfa eligibility in the CREP program.

COLORADO OPEN LANDS-SALLY WIER

President Higel asked for a report from Colorado Open Lands. Sally Wier provided an update on groundwater easements in connection with the Farm Bill. She reported on outreach being done to get attention to the basin and advocating to evaluate alternate valuation methods. Ms. Wier provided an update on current conversations being held with interested parties in groundwater easements and creating internal funding for the retirement of partial groundwater easements. She reported on funds available through NRCS for revegetation on fallow lands. Ms. Wier also reported on the development of the STAR Soil program.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:33 p.m. and resumed at 1:33 p.m.

COLORADO LEGISLATIVE STRATEGIES-GARIN VORTHMANN

President Higel asked for a Colorado Legislative Strategies report. Garin Vorthmann reported on the routine start to the general assembly. She highlighted the water bills being introduced and ones in the works but not yet introduced.

DISTRICT ENGINEER'S REPORT-CLINTON PHILLIPS

President Higel asked for the District Engineer's report. Clinton Phillips presented an update on the confined and unconfined aquifer. He provided the change between December 2022-2023, the current aquifer level, the current five (5) year average and the acre-feet needed to get to the -400,000 level. Mr. Phillips presented a snapshot of the study period showing the change in the time period, a graph showing the overall study period and provided an update on the confined aquifer system wells being monitored by the District monthly.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S REPORT-PETE AMPE

President Higel asked for the District Attorney's report. Pete Ampe gave an update on the Rio Grande Compact litigation settlement agreement, the trial date for Subdistrict No. 1 Plan of Water Management No. 4 and provided an update on the SWAG case.

DIVISION ENGINEER'S REPORT-CRAIG COTTEN

President Higel asked for the Division Engineer's report. Craig Cotten provided an update on the compact including the 2023 streamflow's in the San Luis Valley. He reported on the above average runoff in July and the drop to below average for the remainder of the season. Mr. Cotten explained the effects to the Rio Grande River and the annual flow. He highlighted the amount of water owed to the state line and the percentage to the downstream states. Mr. Cotten reported on the similar pattern on the Conejos River. He presented the upper index annual flow and the obligation to the downstream states. Mr. Cotten presented the streamflow's at Saguache Creek, Trinchera Creek, Ute Creek and Alamosa Creek. He highlighted the statewide percentage snow/water equivalent and the percentages in the upper Rio Grande Basin and the Sangre de Cristo Mountain ranges. Mr. Cotten presented the seasonal precipitation outlook, temperature outlook, and reported being out of article 7 restriction on the Rio Grande Compact. He provided an update on the Rio Grande compact litigation, the tentative date of the Rio Grande compact meeting, abandonment cases, five (5) year average letters sent out and an update on the State Engineer position.

COLORADO STATE PARKS AND WILDLIFE-RYAN UNTERREINER

President Higel asked for the Colorado State Parks and Wildlife report. Ryan Unterreiner reported on two (2) major dam rehabilitation projects and highlighted the plan to store water in the reservoirs next year.

DISCUSSION ON CONDEMNATION OF NORTH STAR FARM QUARTERS

President Higel asked to continue the discussion on condemnation of North Star Farm quarters. He reminded the Board of the earlier failed motion to table the item. Armando Valdez gave recap on what had been discussed earlier and provided his perception. He reported being in support of a friendly condemnation in order for the District to have the ability to control the situation. George Whitten updated the Board on the challenges, operation and progress of Subdistrict No. 5.

A motion was made by Cory Off to proceed with the action of condemnation to allow the owner to perform a 1033 instead of a 1031. The motion was seconded by Mark Deacon, Peggy Godfrey voted no, the motion passed with one (1) no vote and seven (7) yes votes.

President Higel asked Director Godfrey and Director Gunnels to report back to the Board any information from the Saguache County Commissioners. He also reported on an email from Elliott Salazar stating his position of being in favor of condemnation. His vote did not count today. Chris Ivers thanked the Board for taking the time to deliberate on the subject.

RIO GRANDE NATIONAL FOREST-AMBER LIDELL

President Higel asked for the Rio Grande National Forest report. Amber Lidell introduced herself as the new Hydrologist of the Forest Service. She reported on National US Forest Service news, the new leadership, pile burning and winter logging in the Conejos Peak District. Ms. Lidell highlighted road conditions/over snow travel management planning, scholarships and job announcements.

SENATOR HICKENLOOPER'S OFFICE-AZAREL MADRIGAL

President Higel asked for Senator Hickenlooper's office report. Azarel Madrigal reported on a letter to the Department of Interior requesting collaboration with local governments for a funding plan on

water conservation and drought mitigation projects in the Rio Grande Basin. She updated the Board on matters worked on last quarter.

U.S.B.L.M. REPORT-TAYLOR APPLEWHITE

President Higel asked for the U.S.B.L.M. report. Taylor Applewhite introduced himself as the new Wetland Biologist for the BLM. He updated the Board on water exchange cases and on the Blanca Wetlands annual plans of operation. Mr. Applewhite reported continuing to work with the San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District, Trout Unlimited and Ducks Unlimited on BLM restoration landscape designation.

U.S.B.R. REPORT-MORGAN GARCIA DINGFELDER

President Higel asked for U.S.B.R. report. Morgan Garcia Dingfelder reported on the unexpected passing of an employee who worked for the Bureau. She provided an update on operations, maintenance and water collection samples. (Copy of report attached.)

U.S.F. & W.S REPORT-CHRIS SHAFFER

President Higel asked for the U.S.F. & W.S. report. Chris Shaffer reported on the departure of Sharon Vaughn. He highlighted the Great American Outdoor project.

U.S.P.S. REPORT

President Higel asked for the U.S.P.S. report. Andrew Valdez provided an update on visitation, streamflow, precipitation, and temperatures at the Park. He reported on the data being collected and record setting temperatures.

SAN LUIS VALLEY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT-HEATHER DUTTON

President Higel asked for the San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District report. Heather Dutton said her office continues to provide augmentation water to small capacity wells. She reported on funds available through the Roundtable for water projects, upcoming education programs and tour with Jeff Derry. Ms. Dutton highlighted the grants received by the District last year and projects at Shaw Reservoir and Beaver Reservoir. She reported submitting a funding request for the development of two (2) new SNOTEL sites. Ms. Dutton explained where the sites would be located and how they would help to better understand the water supply.

A motion was made by Doug Gunnels to approve funding for SNOTEL sites in the amount \$75,000. The motion was seconded by Mike Kruse and unanimously approved.

RIO GRANDE HEADWATERS RESOTRATION PROGRAM-DANIEL BOYES

President Higel asked for Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Program report. Daniel Boyes provided an update on the restoration projects. He presented before and after photos and explained the challenges with the ditch and degraded water habitat. Mr. Boyes presented a map highlighting the locations of the upcoming 2024 project sites. He provided an update on the Alamosa Riverfront project and the plans for the Rio Grande diversion improvement project. Mr. Boyes also reported on the Farmers Union diversion improvement project, Independent Ditch improvement project, RGNF Wet Meadow Restoration project, the RGBRT education efforts and the Conejos River Partnership project. He highlighted the funding request provided to the Board for phase two (2) of a project the District helped fund a few years back. Mr. Boyes reported the project would directly support the long-term viability of the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). He highlighted other contributors and discussion was held on the number of landowners in the HCP within the construction area.

A motion was made by Cory Off to approve the funding request in the amount of \$40,000. The motion was seconded by Zeke Ward. The motion passed with one (1) no vote and seven (7) yes votes.

HEADWATERS ALLIANCE

President Higel asked for the Headwaters Alliance report. Amber Pacheco reported on a funding request she received from the Headwater Alliance. She stated she would be reaching out to them for additional information.

R.i.G.H.T.-SUSAN PIERCE-PLATAIS

President Higel asked for R.i.G.H.T. report. Susan Pierce-Platais reported on the interest she had received from the public on conservation easements. She described an idea to collaborate with Crystal Benavidez and the HCP. Ms. Pierce-Platais described wanting to offer education/workshops on

easement restrictions in an effort to reduce violations. She reported on expanding the restoration program and described some of the projects.

A motion was made by Cory Off at 3:29 p.m. to enter into the supplemental 2023 budget hearing. The motion was seconded by Peggy Godfrey and unanimously approved.

SUPPLEMENTAL 2023 BUDGET HEARING

President Higel called the Supplemental 2023 Budget Hearing to order. He provided the publication notice of hearing information and asked for public comment on each individual budget. There was none. Amber Pacheco walked through the changes within the budget.

A motion was made by Peggy Godfrey to approve the Resolution /Ordinance for Supplemental Budget and Appropriation. The motion was seconded by Cory Off and unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Peggy Godfrey to approve the Resolution/Ordinance for Budgetary Transfers. The motion was seconded by Cory Off and unanimously approved.


A motion was made by Mark Deacon to approve the Supplemental Budget. The motion was seconded by Peggy Godfrey and unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mark Deacon to come out of the Supplemental Budget Hearing. The motion was seconded by Cory Off and unanimously approved.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 3:43 p.m.

The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2024.



President



Secretary/Treasurer

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE RIO GRANDE WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

(To Provide Authority to the Deputy General Manager to Sign Certain FSA Documents)

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the Rio Grande Water Conservation District (“District”) was created pursuant to section 37-48-102, C.R.S.; and,

WHEREAS, the mailing address of the District is 8805 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to provide the following written statement of authority showing that Cleave Simpson, General Manager or Amber Pacheco, Deputy General Manager, may sign certain FSA documents on behalf of the District, Special Improvement Districts, and/or a Water Activity Enterprise.

RESOLUTION

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Directors of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District that:

1. Amber Pacheco, Deputy General Manager may sign the U.S. Department of Agriculture Commodity Credit Corporation Farm Operating Plan for an Entity (CCC-902E) and all other forms or documents necessary to register the Rio Grande Water Conservation District’s Farm Operating Plan on behalf of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District.

RESOLVED this 16th day of January, 2024

RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICT



Greg Higel, President

ATTEST



Zeke Ward, Secretary

**RESOLUTION/ORDINANCE FOR SUPPLEMENTAL
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION
(Pursuant to Section 29-1-109, C.R.S.)**

A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL SUMS OF MONEY TO DEFRAY EXPENSES IN EXCESS OF AMOUNTS BUDGETED FOR THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, COLORADO.

WHEREAS,

There is a need to transfer budgeted and appropriated monies from one fund to another fund.

WHEREAS,

At the time the 2023 budget was approved, Subdistrict No. 2 had not appropriated funds in an amount necessary for a transfer of funds to the General Fund to cover the total expenditures related to a purchase of water rights for the benefit of Subdistrict No.2. Subdistrict No. 2 also incurred additional administration costs above what was in the approved budget. Subdistrict No. 2 received monies from a transfer of funds from Subdistrict No. 6 above the amount budgeted to cover the transfer to the General Fund for these additional expenditures for the water rights. Subdistrict No. 2 will appropriate additional funds from its excess in its 2023 ending fund balance and from additional revenues received in an amount above what was budgeted to cover the additional administration expenses.

At the time the 2023 budget was approved, Subdistrict No. 3 had not appropriated funds in an amount necessary for a transfer of funds to the General Fund to cover the total expenditures related to a purchase of land and water rights for the benefit of Subdistrict No.3. Subdistrict No. 3 also incurred additional administration costs above what was in the approved budget. Subdistrict No. 3 received monies from a loan above the amount budgeted to cover the transfer to the General Fund for these additional expenditures for the land and water rights. Subdistrict No. 3 will appropriate additional funds from its excess in its 2023 ending fund balance to cover the additional administration expenses.

At the time the 2023 budget was approved, Subdistrict No. 4 had not appropriated funds in an amount necessary for a transfer of funds to the General Fund to cover the total expenditures related to a purchase of land and water rights for the benefit of Subdistrict No. 4. Subdistrict No. 4 received monies from a loan above the amount budgeted that will be appropriated to cover the transfer to the General Fund for these additional expenditures for the land and water rights.

At the time the 2023 budget was approved, Subdistrict No. 5 had not appropriated funds in an amount necessary to cover the total expenditures related to a loan payoff and expenditures for capital outlays that were not anticipated at the time of the original budgets. Subdistrict No. 5 also had additional administration costs in excess of the amount budgeted. Subdistrict No. 5 received monies from a loan above the amount budgeted that will be appropriated to cover the additional expenditures for the loan payoff and the additional capital outlay expenditures.

Subdistrict No. 5 received additional revenues above the amount budgeted that will be appropriated to cover the additional administration expenses.

At the time the 2023 budget was approved, Subdistrict No. 6 appropriated an excess of funds in its budget but it did not appropriate them for the specific purpose of a transfer of funds to the General Fund to cover the total expenditures related to a purchase of water rights for the benefit of Subdistrict No. 6 and for a transfer to Subdistrict No. 2 Special Revenue Fund related to a purchase of water rights. Subdistrict No. 6 will appropriate monies from within its original appropriation to cover the transfers to the General Fund and Subdistrict No. 2 Special Revenue Fund for the expenditures related to the purchase of water rights but will decrease its total appropriation overall.

At the time the 2023 budget was approved, the General Fund had not appropriated funds in an amount necessary to cover the total expenditures related to a program to purchase groundwater rights. The General Fund received additional monies from Senate Bill 22-028 and will appropriate these monies to cover the additional expenditures for the purchase of groundwater rights. The General Fund also had additional expenditures related to the purchase of land and water rights for Subdistrict No. 2, Subdistrict No. 3, Subdistrict No. 4 and Subdistrict No. 6 Special Revenue Funds. The General Fund received monies from the Special Revenue Funds and will appropriate these additional monies in an amount necessary to cover all expenditures related to the purchases of the land and water rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, COLORADO;

Section 1. That the 2023 appropriation for the General Fund be hereby increased from \$2,194,884.23 to \$12,024,180.23 for expenditures related to the purchase of land and water for Subdistrict No. 2, Subdistrict No. 3, Subdistrict No. 4 and Subdistrict No. 6 Special Revenue Funds and for expenditures related to the purchase of groundwater rights.

Section 2. That the 2023 appropriation for the Subdistrict No. 2 Special Revenue Fund be hereby increased from \$1,076,470.00 to \$1,521,913.00

Section 3. That the 2023 appropriation for the Subdistrict No. 3 Special Revenue Fund be hereby increased from \$2,206,450.00 to \$2,887,710.00

Section 4. That the 2023 appropriation for the Subdistrict No. 4 Special Revenue Fund be hereby increased from \$477,401.00 to \$3,077,401.00

Section 5. That the 2023 appropriation for the Subdistrict No. 5 Special Revenue Fund be hereby increased from \$686,000.00 to \$3,226,270.00

Section 6. That the 2023 appropriation for the Subdistrict No. 6 Special Revenue Fund for the purpose of a transfer to the General Fund is \$700,000.00 and the transfer to

Subdistrict No. 2 Special Revenue Fund is \$742,269.00 and the overall appropriation for Subdistrict No. 6 will decrease from \$4,082,512.00 to \$3,025,781.00

ADOPTED, this 16th day of January, A.D., 2024.

Attest:



President



Secretary/Treasurer

RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

	PRIOR YEAR 2021	CURRENT YEAR 2022	ADOPTED YEAR 2023
GENERAL FUND			
Beginning Fund Balance	\$4,303,515	\$4,720,104	\$4,719,448
Revenues			
Taxes	\$1,433,247	\$1,266,193	\$1,279,223
Intergovernmental Revenue	\$75,793	\$54,992	\$4,772,204
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$113,352	\$181,881	\$182,500
Total Revenues	\$1,622,392	\$1,503,066	\$6,233,927
Expenditures			
Salaries and Fringe	\$407,144	\$462,653	\$483,385.46
Travel	\$18,084	\$4,791	\$12,500.00
Office Expense	\$93,337	\$139,604	\$122,083.93
Professional Services	\$235,786	\$922,890	\$1,021,000.00
Other General Government	\$301,326	\$89,791	\$86,000.00
Conservation of Natural Resources	\$69,496	\$112,451	\$212,252.84
Bureau of Reclamation Contract	\$80,630	\$0	\$0.00
Capital Outlay	\$392,500	\$2,844,225	\$10,086,958.00
Total Expenditures	\$1,598,303	\$4,576,405	\$12,024,180.23
Other Financing Sources			
Transfer in from Subdistrict #1,2,3,5,6 Special Revenue Fund	\$392,500	\$3,204,460	\$6,687,210
Other Financial Use			
Property acquisition for Subdistrict #1 Special Revenue Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
Transfer money out to Subdistrict #2 Special Revenue Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
Transfer money out to Subdistrict #3 Special Revenue Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
Transfer money out to Subdistrict #4 Special Revenue Fund	\$0	\$131,777	\$0
Transfer money out to Subdistrict #5 Special Revenue Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
Transfer money out to Subdistrict #6 Special Revenue Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
TABOR RESERVE	\$32,807	\$55,000	\$55,000
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures	\$416,589	-\$656	\$896,957
ENDING FUND BALANCE	\$4,720,104	\$4,719,448	\$5,616,405

SUBDISTRICT #1 SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

Beginning Fund Balance (cash basis)	\$4,975,364	\$5,163,150	\$6,228,367
Operating Revenue			
Fees: Variable	\$7,404,753	\$6,813,141	\$6,816,000
Fees: Administrative	\$524,069	\$417,901	\$413,500
Fees: CREP	\$2,013,476	\$2,023,626	\$0
Fees: Contract Inclusion	\$22,500	\$5,000	\$0
Total Operating Revenue	\$9,964,799	\$9,259,668	\$7,229,500

Operating Expenses

Water Management-Variable	\$7,582,927	\$7,099,750	\$6,999,265
Administrative	\$416,590	\$539,700	\$535,700
CREP	\$1,807,707	\$898,000	\$1,897,767
Total Operating Expenses	\$9,807,223	\$8,537,450	\$9,432,732
Nonoperating Revenue			
Interest Revenue	\$30,210	\$43,000	\$43,000
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$0	\$300,000	\$130,000
Other Financial Use			
Transfer out to Rio Grande Water Conservation District	\$0	\$0	\$0
ENDING FUND BALANCE	\$5,163,150	\$6,228,367	\$4,198,135

SUBDISTRICT #2 SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

Beginning Fund Balance (cash basis)	\$392,397	\$472,539	\$399,140
Operating Revenue			
Fees: Pumping	\$382,439	\$547,487	\$605,000
Fees: Administrative	\$82,094	\$74,360	\$79,330
Fees: Contract Inclusion	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Total Operating Revenue	\$465,532	\$622,847	\$685,330
Operating Expenses			
Water Management			
Water Lease and Storage	\$281,201	\$591,912	\$684,920
Administration	\$52,527	\$61,492	\$71,693
Professional Fees	\$39,632	\$30,764	\$52,800
Reimbursement to the General Fund	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$12,500
Total Operating Expenses	\$385,861	\$696,667	\$821,913
Nonoperating Revenue			
Interest Revenue	\$470	\$421	\$1,000
Other Financing Source			
Transfer in from Rio Grande Water Conservation District	\$6,913	\$0	\$0
Transfer in from Subdistrict #6 Special Revenue Fund	\$0	\$0	\$742,270
Other Financial Use			
Transfer out to Rio Grande Water Conservation District	\$0	\$0	\$700,000
ENDING FUND BALANCE	\$479,452	\$399,140	\$305,827

SUBDISTRICT #3 SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

Beginning Fund Balance (cash basis)	\$969,871	\$1,395,355	\$1,608,213
Operating Revenue			
Fees: Groundwater Withdrawal	\$578,548	\$628,899	\$608,750
Fees: Administrative	\$83,734	\$76,331	\$50,000

Fees: Contract Inclusion	\$900	\$300	\$300
Total Operating Revenue	\$663,181	\$705,530	\$659,050
Operating Expenses			
Water Management			
Water Lease and Storage	\$135,260	\$387,467	\$500,000
Administration	\$50,595	\$52,584	\$70,500
Professional Fees	\$53,553	\$49,996	\$125,000
Reimbursement to the General Fund	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Total Operating Expenses	\$244,409	\$495,047	\$700,500
Nonoperating Revenue			
Interest Revenue	\$3,281	\$2,375	\$4,130
Sale of Assets	\$0	\$0	\$233,000
Other Financing Source			
Transfer in from Rio Grande Water Conservation District	\$3,430	\$0	\$0
Loan Proceeds	\$0	\$0	\$1,991,130
Other Financial Use			
Transfer out to Rio Grande Water Conservation District	\$0	\$0	\$2,187,210
ENDING FUND BALANCE	\$1,395,355	\$1,608,213	\$1,607,813

SUBDISTRICT #4 SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

Beginning Fund Balance (cash basis)	\$0	\$146,833	\$16,986
Operating Revenue			
Fees: Groundwater Withdrawal	\$159,785	\$144,212	\$253,000
Fees: Administrative	\$95,901	\$56,511	\$88,012
Fees: Lease Payment	\$0	\$0	\$135,000
Fees: Contract Inclusion	\$7,000	\$0	\$500
Total Operating Revenue	\$262,686	\$200,724	\$476,512
Operating Expenses			
Water Management			
Water Lease and Storage	\$32,079	\$349,245	\$358,000
Administration	\$59,323	\$58,103	\$64,401
Professional Fees	\$24,451	\$42,000	\$42,000
Reimbursement to the General Fund	\$0	\$13,000	\$13,000
Total Operating Expenses	\$115,853	\$462,348	\$477,401
Nonoperating Revenue			
Interest Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Financing Source			
Loan Proceeds	\$0	\$0	\$2,610,046
Transfer in from Rio Grande Water Conservation District	\$0	\$131,777	\$0

Other Financial Use

Transfer out to Rio Grande Water Conservation District	\$0	\$0	\$2,600,000
ENDING FUND BALANCE	\$146,833	\$16,986	\$26,143

SUBDISTRICT #5 SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

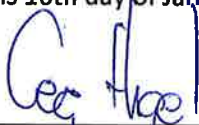
Beginning Fund Balance (cash basis)	\$0	\$118,616	\$0
Operating Revenue			
Fees: Groundwater Withdrawal	\$348,547	\$578,402	\$580,000
Fees: Administrative	\$109,591	\$111,331	\$150,000
Fees: Contract Inclusion	\$5,500	\$0	\$1,000
Total Operating Revenue	\$463,638	\$689,733	\$731,000
Operating Expenses			
Water Management			
Water Lease and Storage	\$202,877	\$721,114	\$500,000
Administration	\$72,146	\$100,841	\$101,500
Professional Fees	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$70,000
Reimbursement to the General Fund	\$0	\$19,552	\$25,000
Capital Outlay	\$0	\$0	\$347,050
Total Operating Expenses	\$345,022	\$911,507	\$696,500
Nonoperating Revenue			
Interest Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Financing Source			
Loan Proceeds	\$0	\$0	\$2,876,816
Transfer in from Rio Grande Water Conservation District	\$0	\$103,158	\$0
Other Financial Use			
Pay off Loan	\$0	\$0	\$2,529,770
ENDING FUND BALANCE	\$118,616	\$0	\$381,546

SUBDISTRICT #6 SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

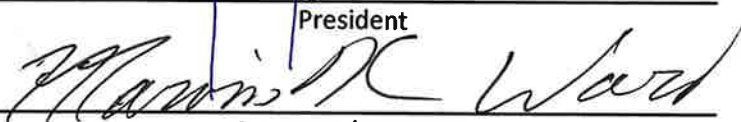
Beginning Fund Balance (cash basis)	\$969,749	\$1,850,729	\$2,235,346
Operating Revenue			
Fees: Groundwater Withdrawal	\$1,313,116	\$1,221,764	\$1,775,000
Fees: Administrative	\$106,575	\$104,545	\$101,150
Fees: Contract Inclusion	\$1,200	\$1,800	\$1,200
Total Operating Revenue	\$1,420,891	\$1,328,109	\$1,877,350
Operating Expenses			
Water Management			
Water Lease and Storage	\$376,707	\$741,597	\$1,300,000

Administration	\$69,958	\$79,701	\$108,512
Professional Fees	\$104,543	\$116,332	\$165,000
Reimbursement to the General Fund	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Total Operating Expenses	\$561,208	\$947,630	\$1,583,512
Nonoperating Revenue			
Interest Revenue	\$8,740	\$4,139	\$4,000
Other Financing Source			
Transfer in from Rio Grande Water Conservation District	\$12,557	\$0	\$0
Other Financial Use			
Transfer out to Subdistrict #2 Special Revenue Fund	\$0	\$0	\$742,269
Transfer out to Rio Grande Water Conservation District			\$700,000
ENDING FUND BALANCE	\$1,850,729	\$2,235,346	\$1,090,915

ADOPTED, this 16th day of January, 2024



President



Secretary/Treasurer

**RESOLUTION/ORDINANCE FOR
BUDGETARY TRANSFERS
(Pursuant to Section 29-1-109, C.R.S.)**

A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL SUMS OF MONEY TO DEFRAY EXPENSES IN EXCESS OF AMOUNTS BUDGETED FOR THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, COLORADO.

WHEREAS,

There is a need to transfer budgeted and appropriated monies from one fund to another fund.

WHEREAS,

Subdistrict No. 2 Special Revenue Fund, Subdistrict No. 3 Special Revenue Fund, Subdistrict No. 4 Special Revenue Fund and Subdistrict No. 6 Special Revenue Fund have fund balances which can be appropriated to allow a transfer from these funds to the General Fund and Special Revenue District No. 2 to cover additional expenditures that were not anticipated at the time the 2023 budget appropriations were approved

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, COLORADO;

Section 1. That the sum of \$700,000.00 is hereby transferred from Subdistrict No. 2 Special Revenue Fund to the General Fund's fund balance.

Section 2. That the sum of \$2,187,210.00 is hereby transferred from Subdistrict No. 3 Special Revenue Fund to the General Fund's fund balance.

Section 3. That the sum of \$2,600,000.00 is hereby transferred from Subdistrict No. 4 Special Revenue Fund to the General Fund's fund balance.

Section 4. That the sum of \$700,000.00 is hereby transferred from Subdistrict No. 6 Special Revenue Fund to the General Fund's fund balance.


Section 5. That the sum of \$742,269.00 is hereby transferred from Subdistrict No. 6 Special Revenue Fund to Subdistrict No. 2 Special Revenue Fund's fund balance.

ADOPTED, this 16th day of January, A.D., 2024.

Attest:



President



Secretary/Treasurer

Bureau of Reclamation Report to the RGWCD

January 16, 2024

OPERATIONS

Water salvage operations continued as recommended by the Project Operating Committee to meet Rio Grande Compact and mitigation obligations.

For the YTD (1/1/2023 to 12/31/2023)

A total of 2,107 AF was delivered to the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge through CHO1 & 2.

A total of 1,443 AF was delivered to the Blanca Wildlife Habitat Area through CHO3 & 4.

A total of 14 AF was delivered to Head Lake West, through the Head Lake Pipeline.

Delivery to the Rio Grande has been 7,487 AF.

San Luis Lake is dry at an Elevation of 7,509 ft.

San Luis Lake (12/31/2023)

San Luis Lake	San Luis Lake Elevation	7,509.0 ft. MSL
	Storage	0 acre-feet
	TDS	N/A ppm TDS

Project Deliveries: (1/1/2023 to 12/31/2023)

Deliveries to:	Rio Grande—total	7,487 acre-feet
	Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge—total	2,107* acre-feet
	Blanca Wildlife Habitat Area—total	1,443* acre-feet
	San Luis Lake—total	0.0 acre-feet
	Head Lake (West)	14 acre-feet
	Total Deliveries as of December 31, 2023	<u>11,051 acre-feet</u>

**Includes 250 AF exchange delivered to BLM but credited to USFWS mitigation total.*

**Includes 31.7 AF Treasure Pass / Chicago Ditch water substitution*

**Includes 47.6 AF Treasure Pass water exchange*

**Includes 210.3 AF FWS/BLM Lease*

**Includes 100 Don La Font Exchange water*

Note: All data is preliminary and subject to review.

MAINTENANCE BRANCH

Well rehabilitation operations were completed for 16 salvage wells in 2023. Weed management continued at canal check structures. Blade work continued on lateral roads and canal berms. Preventative maintenance was completed on heavy equipment in preparation for planned work. Preventative maintenance on project features is ongoing.

WATER LABORATORY

A total of 142 samples were collected from the Closed Basin Project during the period of October 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023.

Total Dissolved Solids at the Outlet was an average of 293 mg/L for the period.